

Appl. No. 10/811,228
Prelim. Amdt. dated January 5, 2005

PATENT

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 26, 29, 30 and 72 are amended, and claim 1-25, 32-71 and 75-109 are canceled. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-25 (canceled)

26. (currently amended) A method of treating a patent foramen ovale having a right side and a left side in a heart, the method comprising:

advancing a catheter device having a proximal end, a distal end and an energy transmission member at or near the distal end through vasculature of a patient to position the distal end on the right side of [adjacent] the patent foramen ovale; and

transmitting energy from the energy transmission member to contact tissue of [adjacent] the patent foramen ovale to induce closure of the patent foramen ovale.

27. (original) A method as in claim 26, wherein transmitting energy comprises transmitting at least one of laser energy, radio frequency energy, ultrasound energy and microwave energy.

28. (original) A method as in claim 26, wherein transmitting energy comprises transmitting cryogenic energy or removing energy via cooling.

29. (currently amended) A method as in claim 26, wherein transmitting energy causes the tissue of [adjacent] the patent foramen ovale to weld together to close the patent foramen ovale.

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30. (currently amended) A method as in claim 26, further comprising inserting at least one needle into the tissue of [adjacent] the patent foramen ovale to enhance transmission of the energy to the tissue.

31. (original) A method as in claim 30, wherein inserting the at least one needle draws the tissue together to enhance the transmission of energy to the tissue.

32-71 (canceled)

72. (currently amended) Apparatus for treating a patent foramen ovale, the apparatus comprising:

an elongate catheter body having a proximal end and a distal end; and

at least one energy transmission member coupled with the catheter body adjacent the distal end for transmitting energy to contact tissue of [adjacent] the patent foramen ovale to induce closure of the patent foramen ovale.

73. (original) Apparatus as in claim 72, wherein the energy transmission member transmits at least one of laser energy, radio frequency energy, ultrasound energy and microwave energy.

74. (original) Apparatus as in claim 72, wherein the energy transmission member comprises at least one of a cryogenic energy transmission member and a cooling member.

75-109 (canceled)